UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records

FOURTH COMMITTEE
4th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 8 October 1991
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 4th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. FLEMMING (Saint Lucia)

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Hearing of petitioners

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A/C.4/46/SR.4
15 October 1991
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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (A/C.4/46/2/Add.2, A/C.4/46/4-7)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that two communications containing requests for hearings were before the Committee: one concerning the activities of foreign economic and other interests (A/C.4/46/4) and the second concerning the United States Virgin Islands (A/C.4/46/5). If he heard no objection he would take it that the Committee wished to grant the requests.

2. It was so decided.

3. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee of the receipt of three communications containing requests for hearings, one relating to the question of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (A/C.4/46/6) and one concerning New Caledonia (A/C.4/46/2/Add.2), under agenda item 19, and one concerning the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/C.4/46/7) under agenda item 101. He suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, the communications should be circulated as Committee documents for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

4. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 100: ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (continued) (A/46/23 (Part III); A/AC.109/1065, 1066, 1070, 1073, 1075-1078)

Hearing of petitioners

5. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Gonzalez Gonzalez took a place at the petitioners' table.

6. Mr. GONZALEZ GONZALEZ said that the agenda item before the Committee was not limited to its economic and military aspects but included broader questions. That did not mean, however, that the economic and military aspects were not of fundamental importance. For example, the American imperialists used their economic activity in order to perpetuate their domination of Puerto Rico. The internal and external debt of that country was enormous, amounting to $US 18 billion. The annual profit of the corporations which exploited the country's cheap labour exceeded $US 12 billion. A little less than half of that sum was spent in Puerto Rico, in order to keep the population from dying of hunger, but also in order to prevent an uprising against its oppressors. Similar situations existed not only in other enslaved Territories but in the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and other parts of the world. In order to

(Mr. Gonzalez Gonzalez)

stifle the country's liberation movement, which threatened the very existence of those corporations, the imperialists resorted to a whole range of illegal measures directed against the freedom fighters.

7. The military aspect was also of great importance. Many military bases were located on the territory of Puerto Rico, and there was a nuclear base on its eastern coast. These bases served the United States as springboards for its aggressive activities against a number of Latin American countries. They were needed by the imperialists to control the sea lanes and to intimidate the countries of the region. In order to retain them the imperialists did everything in their power to prevent the attainment of independence by the colonial Territories on which they were located.

8. Apart from those military and economic aspects, another serious problem was the inculcation, through the educational system and the mass media, of a slave psychology in the population which, in his view, constituted the most serious obstacle to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

9. In that connection, he asked the members of the Fourth Committee to consider the possibility of including in the agenda of the Special Committee as well as the Fourth Committee a new item entitled "Human rights in colonial Territories" to be discussed either in 1991 or 1992.

10. In connection with the item under consideration two other questions must be touched on. One of them concerned the fact that the United Nations served as a marketplace in which the interests of States were bought and sold and where distortion of the truth and the desire to gain advantage at the expense of others were commonplace. That unprincipled approach was a serious obstacle to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). An example of it was the vote in the Special Committee on the draft resolution relating to the right of the Puerto Rican people to independence and self-determination. The countries which had formerly supported that draft resolution now abstained or did not participate in the vote.

11. The work of the Fourth Committee itself had unfortunately become one of the main obstacles to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). The United States and other imperialist Powers used that body for their own interests, just as they had used the Security Council as an appendage of the Pentagon when they had forced the members of the Council to declare a war against an Arab country. The Fourth Committee must not be allowed to be transformed into an appendage of the United States State Department.

12. The second question concerned the attempt by the United States to transform the Special Committee. The title of that Committee was "Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and

(Mr. Gonzalez Gonzalez)

Peoples". Its subject was independence and not cosmetic political and legal changes. But the imperialists avoided references to independence in their statements and instead referred to Chapter XI of the Charter, in which the word "independence" did not appear. That Chapter referred to Trust Territories and Non-Self-Governing Territories but not to the third category of "Territories which have not yet obtained independence" referred to in operative paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

13. Chapter XI dealt with self-determination. But no generally accepted definition of that concept existed, as the Legal Counsel of the United Nations had emphasized in answer to a petitioner's question.

14. No one had any doubt as to the real goals of the proposals by the United States in the Fourth Committee to transform the Special Committee. He expressed the hope that those countries which had recently gained their freedom would support the struggle against the transformation of the Special Committee into a tool of the imperialists. The Special Committee should not become an obstacle to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

15. Mr. Gonzalez Gonzalez withdrew.

General debate (continued)

16. Mr. DENU (Ghana) said that his delegation did not share the view that with Namibia's attainment of independence the agenda item had ceased to be significant for the Committee. That was not to say, however, that all the activities of foreign economic interests in Non-Self-Governing Territories were inimical to the interests of their peoples. Foreign direct investments not only in independent countries but also in Territories still under colonial domination played a useful role.

17. However, it was morally indefensible for foreign economic interests to plunder the natural resources of Non-Self-Governing Territories before they were granted independence. The natural resources of all Non-Self-Governing Territories were the indisputable heritage of those countries and they alone should determine the manner in which they were exploited. It was not necessary to be clairvoyant to realize that unless the United Nations acted to prevent foreign companies from controlling the natural resources of Non-Self-Governing Territories independence would only be granted to them after they had been completely despoiled of their natural resources by the colonial Powers.

18. The draft resolution on the question which was before the Committee reflected that concern. However, the continued collaboration of certain countries with the racist regime of South Africa in the nuclear field must also be noted with concern. His delegation joined in the call on those Governments to refrain from supplying the South African regime with the

(Mr. Denu, Ghana)

support that could impede the important initiatives currently under way to secure the elimination of apartheid. That call was equally addressed to those who had prematurely lifted the sanctions directed against South Africa by the international community and the United Nations.

19. With the exception of operative paragraph 6, the draft resolution refrained from the traditional practice of name calling. The fact that name calling generated such a stormy reaction was incontrovertible proof that it had an effect if not on national policies at least on the credibility of foreign policies. The only way to stop the practice of name calling was for the countries concerned to abandon the practices that occasioned it. To stop the practice simply because certain Member States felt embarrassed by it and also, probably, to make possible the adoption of the resolution by consensus was to waver in the commitment of the United Nations to assisting Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination and independence.

20. Mr. SRIWIDJAJA (Indonesia) said that more than three decades earlier the Organization had recognized that activities of foreign economic and other interests had been impeding efforts to achieve a fundamental goal enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, namely implementation of the principles of "equal rights and the self-determination of peoples". That fundamental tenet had been further elaborated in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV).

21. The dawning of a new era in international relations had led to sweeping and profound changes and new trends in the political and economic fields. Many of those changes gave rise to renewed hope for building a new system of global government and establishing a new world order based on just peace and more equitable and sustainable development. Such a new order must be firmly rooted in the fundamental principles of the Charter.

22. The historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples had had a significant impact on the Organization itself. Its progressive implementation had resulted in a more than threefold increase in the number of Member States in the Organization. At the current time, there was an urgent need for the Special Committee to enhance its collective ability to implement the Declaration by making use of the new opportunities resulting from the rapidly evolving situation. The Special Committee should renew its commitment to completing the process of decolonization within the framework of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

23. The remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, whose peoples had not yet attained their goal of self-determination and independence, must not be forgotten. The administering Powers should, as long as they functioned in that capacity, implement policies that promoted the exercise of the right to self-determination and self-reliance. The United Nations specialized agencies should continue to contribute to that process by advancing the political and economic development of those Territories.

(Mr. Sriwidjaja, Indonesia)

24. His delegation in principle agreed with the recommendations of the Working Group on the rationalisation of the work of the Special Committee. Indonesia was confident that efforts to restructure and regroup some items, thus helping the Special Committee fulfil its mandate, would be successful.

25. Mrs. AGUILERA DE RODRIGUEZ (Mexico) said that in the past year there had been a number of geopolitical changes in the world, which justified optimistic hopes for the beginning of an era of dialogue and cooperation between the super-Powers and he hoped that those changes would have a beneficial effect on the situation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly with regard to the activities of foreign economic interests.

26. Foreign investments in the Territories under colonial administration must serve as a stimulus for the development of those Territories and their populations, and the activities of the administering Powers must be designed to create suitable political and social conditions in order to give the population of those Territories the opportunity to decide their destiny independently. Foreign investments were useful only if they promoted progress in the political, economic and social fields and in the area of education and did not impede efforts to achieve political and economic independence.

27. The information provided on the agenda item under consideration, however, did not contain elements for carrying out a real and concrete assessment of the consequences of such activities. In that connection, her delegation reiterated the request that it had made at the previous session concerning the submission of detailed and updated socio-economic data on each Non-Self-Governing Territory, such as data on per capita income, the number of jobs created as a result of the activities of foreign interests, average salaries, cost of living and so forth.

28. Noting the significant progress achieved in eliminating apartheid in South Africa, she said that it was premature to lift the sanctions against that country and that the activities of foreign economic interests there were in violation of General Assembly decisions. In that regard, she supported the view concerning the need to act prudently until the provisions of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa had been fully implemented.

29. The right of peoples to self-determination was a universal principle, and the international community must promote the fulfilment of that legitimate aspiration of the Territories under colonial administration.

30. Mr. FAZL-I-MAHMOOD (Pakistan) said that more than half of the current Members of the United Nations were former colonies. In the decolonization process more than 80 million people had achieved self-determination and today there were fewer than 2 million people in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. That process was continuing and his delegation hoped that there would be no dependent Territories by the year 2000.

(Mr. Fazl-I-Mahmood, Pakistan)

31. Although, as it had been argued, the inflow of foreign investment was an important aspect of development in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, it was essential to ensure that such economic activities benefited the population of the Territories by improving their standard of living and enhancing the economic self-sufficiency essential for their transition to self-government. The General Assembly had noted the danger posed by foreign economic interests in a number of resolutions, including resolution 45/33, on the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

32. Although recent developments in South Africa, where the anachronistic system of apartheid still existed, constituted steps in the right direction, unfortunately they still fell short of the complete dismantling of the system. The international community had an obligation to extend wholehearted support to the people of South Africa in their struggle for self-determination and majority rule.

33. His delegation was aware of the fact that lack of appropriate expertise in administering the day-to-day activities of a State could become an obstacle to self-government. Pakistan, therefore, was making a modest contribution to the process of decolonization by offering scholarships to students from Non-Self-Governing Territories in the field of medicine, commerce, public administration and political science.

34. His delegation emphasized that, while helping those currently suffering from deprivation and exploitation, the international community must not remain oblivious of the need to guard against the possible recurrence of colonialism in any form and it should devise ways and means to achieve that objective. Colonialism, apartheid or any similar evil system based on injustice, racism or racial discrimination should have no place in the emerging new world order. The greatest triumph of the Fourth Committee would be the proud act of dissolving itself after having fulfilled its mandate. His delegation believed that that triumph was within the Committee's grasp.

35. Ms. THORPE (Trinidad and Tobago) said that her country, which had a colonial past, had always firmly supported the cause of decolonization and very closely followed the work of the Fourth Committee. Although the success in the work of decolonization was encouraging, there still remained much to be done in order to ensure the speedy and successful completion of the process under way. The international community was now showing a greater readiness for constructive dialogue and cooperation and the Committee was acting in that same spirit.

36. With regard to the proposals adopted earlier on setting up a group of friends of the Chairman, which would consider the conclusions of the informal consultations by the Committee, she pointed out that her delegation viewed those conclusions as the result of serious efforts by Member States to continue the process of decolonization. Although certain questions, for

(Ms. Thorpe, Trinidad and Tobago)

example the issue of considering the problem of apartheid in the Committee, required further discussion, the Committee had achieved a significant degree of agreement on many matters. There were grounds for assuming that, if negotiations were conducted conscientiously and with account taken of the common objective, namely the self-determination of the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing-Territories, the area of agreement could be broadened.

37. Her delegation urged the Committee to give positive consideration to the recommendations on which agreement had been reached because that would speed up its work, enhance cooperation and serve to meet the interests of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. In that way, it would still be possible to discuss the questions that were still pending.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records

FOURTH COMMITTEE
5th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 9 October 1991
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 5th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. FLEMMING (Saint Lucia)

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REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

AGENDA ITEM 100: ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (continued)

General debate

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A/C.4/46/SR.5
14 October 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

91-56413 3902S (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (A/C.4/46/6-7, A/C.4/46/2/Add.1)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a communication containing a request for a hearing concerning the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (A/C.4/46/6). If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to grant that request.

2. It was so decided.

3. Mr. FIFE (Norway) speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that the granting of the request should not be interpreted as indicating that the Nordic countries agreed that the General Assembly had a right to hear petitioners speaking on matters relating to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Article 83 of the United Nations Charter stipulated that all functions of the United Nations relating to strategic areas should be exercised by the Security Council with the assistance of the Trusteeship Council.

4. Mr. VAN DER LUGT (Netherlands) said his delegation's acquiescence in the decision did not mean it accepted the view that the General Assembly could exercise any functions with respect to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

5. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a communication containing a request for a hearing concerning New Caledonia (A/C.4/46/2/Add.1). If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to grant that request.

6. It was so decided.

7. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a communication containing a request for a hearing concerning the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies (A/C.4/46/7). If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to grant that request.

8. It was so decided.

9. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he had received a communication containing a request for a hearing concerning Pitcairn, under agenda item 19. He suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, the communication should be circulated as a Committee document for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

10. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 100: ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN THE TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (A/46/23 (part III); A/AC.109/1065, 1066, 1070, 1073, 1075-1078) (continued)

General debate

11. Mr. IMANALIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that socio-economic development was an important part of the process of decolonization; it was for that reason that the Declaration and other decisions of the United Nations on decolonization gave special attention to it. Under the United Nations Charter, the administering Powers were assigned responsibility for promoting the political, economic and social development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories while respecting the culture of their populations, and the problem of socio-economic development had now become especially important because for the first time in history the possibility existed of creating a genuinely interdependent global economy ensuring the attainment of a decent level of life for all the peoples of the world.

12. Foreign aid was an important means of establishing the proper conditions for development. At the same time, however, the United Nations must not ignore attempts by foreign economic interests to exploit the dependent Territories, and their activities in those Territories must be monitored. The United Nations had also taken cognizance of the fact that military bases in dependent Territories might hamper their development, and it was from that point of view that his delegation supported the proposed draft resolution contained in document A/46/23 (Part III). The time had come to begin to seek ways to eliminate those military bases.

13. The problem of increasing the effectiveness of the United Nations was also becoming increasingly important. Some changes had been made, but much remained to be done; his delegation accordingly believed that the effort must not only be given further impetus but reoriented so as to maximize the potential of the United Nations for helping the dependent Territories achieve self-government and independence.

14. Mr. ANVIRE (Côte d'Ivoire) said that the accession of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia to national sovereignty should strengthen the determination of the international community to meet the challenge it had set itself of eliminating colonialism by the year 2000.

15. The Special Committee had played a role in the process of freeing peoples from colonial domination but, now that international relations had changed, it was high time for the Committee to rid itself of the inherited burden of ideological propaganda. That was why his delegation particularly appreciated the efforts made by the two working groups during the past year to improve the work of the Fourth Committee and the Special Committee. It welcomed the results already achieved and hoped that the remaining difficulties would be overcome before the end of the Fourth Committee's current session.

(Mr. Anvire, Côte d'Ivoire)

16. Colonialism and its corollaries, including racial, political and religious discrimination and, worst of all, apartheid, must be banished from the earth. The world had recently witnessed a welcome movement towards the final eradication of apartheid in South Africa, and the Government and political groupings of that country must be encouraged to continue to work together to establish dialogue and to create a multiracial, egalitarian and democratic South Africa endowed with a constitution for all to which all had contributed.

17. The primary responsibility for meeting the challenge of freeing the world of colonialism belonged to the administering Powers. It was they who must help the peoples to take political and economic decisions and ensure respect for human rights and the preservation of cultural values. The abusive exploitation of the natural resources of the colonial Territories contradicted the purposes and principles of the Charter, and the Administering Authorities must be called on to ensure that economic and other activities in the colonial Territories did not pose an obstacle to the process of development, which was a prerequisite for political independence. The international community must help those Territories not only with their development programmes but to ensure their survival in the face of natural disasters and the rise in the ocean level caused by planetary warming. Only outside capital could help the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, which were mostly islands and economically handicapped, to escape from poverty. At a time when the whole world was seeking foreign investment for development, it was absurd that statements in the United Nations did not reflect that reality.

18. He reiterated his delegation's hope that, as a result of the important decisions recently taken by the United States and the Soviet Union in the field of disarmament, the military bases in Non-Self-Governing Territories would soon be dismantled and an end put to nuclear testing in those Territories. It was to be hoped that, now that the cold war had ended, the resolutions of the Special Committee and the Fourth Committee would better reflect the real aspiration of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories rather than anachronistic ideological positions.

19. Mr. MARTINEZ BOUE (Cuba) said that the Committee's task was to do its utmost to help eliminate colonialism from the face of the Earth and to do away as soon as possible with apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa. It would encourage the proponents of colonial domination and racism, and would be a moral and political betrayal of its responsibility, if the Committee sought instead to find accommodating formulas that in practice favoured their perpetuation. Cuba was therefore extremely troubled by a draft resolution circulated informally among members in recent days. The text in question, by using sophistry and circumlocutions to avoid naming colonialism and colonial Territories for what they were, sent a clear message in favour of preserving colonialism. Cuba was not opposed to seeking consensus, but consensus should not become a straitjacket that in effect worked to extend the veto power to the Committee.

(Mr. Martinez Boue, Cuba)

20. The 1991 session of the Special Committee on decolonization, newly restructured to respond to the demands of the decade, had been very fruitful, and all its reasoned and wide-ranging recommendations should be adopted. Unfortunately, however, not all the colonial Powers had fully cooperated with the Special Committee, and some of them were even engaged in activities in the Territories under their control that violated established United Nations principles.

21. Apartheid was one of the major issues before the decolonization bodies. Some changes that had taken place in South Africa admittedly suggested a positive trend. Nevertheless, the abominable practice of apartheid was still forcibly entrenched in the legislative and other structures of the country. To lift pressure now on the Pretoria Government would be to send an ambiguous message, as had been or would be done by the lifting of sanctions.

22. A way must be found to give the people of the world up-to-date and specific information on the true nature of colonialism, in order to foster a universal recognition of the need to eradicate it. They must be made aware of the work being done by the Organization, and of the cooperation - or lack thereof - extended to it by the colonial Powers.

23. Sadly, foreign interests active in the dependent Territories were using economic control to set the patterns that would define the future course of the Territories. If the independent nations of the underdeveloped world had to fight constantly against the plundering of their natural resources, the unequal adjustment and exchange rate terms and the debt burden in order to survive, how much more desperate was the situation for the fragile economies of Territories under colonial domination.

24. The workings of foreign military interests were still more surreptitious. The maintenance of military bases in the Territories generated an even greater dependence, and more serious yet was the use of colonial Territories as training sites and testing grounds for new weapons that could be used against neighbouring countries, as the United States had done in Puerto Rico - whose territory, wealth and culture it was usurping - in preparation for its aggression against the Dominican Republic, Grenada and Panama.

25. Cuba would not abandon its commitment to the full implementation of the Declaration on decolonization as long as a single Territory remained in bondage.

26. Mr. CHORNY (Ukraine) said that the Committee could not avoid reflecting in its work the significant changes which were taking place in the world. The ideology of decolonization had taken shape both under the influence of confrontation between two blocs and at a time when the peoples of many countries which were now Members of the United Nations had suffered merciless exploitation and oppression. A substantial proportion of instruments and

(Mr. Chorny, Ukraine)

resolutions bore the stamp of those times. However, the chief concern now was not to "label" anyone, but to achieve the independence of Non-Self-Governing Territories, define their post-colonial development, and deal with neo-colonialism. The focus was on the problems of "island decolonization" and new, more specific instruments were needed to assist the United Nations in that task. His delegation nevertheless supported the recommendations contained in document A/46/23, part III.

27. His delegation was particularly concerned by the increasing military activity of administering States in dependent Territories, as described in chapter V of the Special Committee's report. Some of the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on that issue seemed to suggest that military activity had positive implications for island Territories. However, it was inappropriate in the current climate of arms reduction for the Territories to continue serving the interests of the military-industrial complex of administering Powers. Ukraine firmly opposed giving small nations such gifts of world civilization as nuclear weapon bases, testing grounds and waste disposal sites. Such action not only impeded their exercise of the right of self-determination, but also threatened international peace and security. In that context, the recent initiatives of the United States and the Soviet Union concerning nuclear disarmament were to be welcomed.

28. Ukraine was in the process of establishing itself as an independent, democratic republic with a strong commitment to human rights and freedoms. It therefore fully supported all those who were striving for independent development and cooperation.

29. Mr. LARGUI (Tunisia) said that the fact that Tunisia had joined the United Nations immediately after achieving independence was ample proof of its commitment to the ideas and values of the Organization. Considerable progress had been made since then concerning decolonization, and at last the beginnings of change in the apartheid system in South Africa were apparent. However, decolonization was not yet complete and society in South Africa not yet fully democratic and non-racial. The United Nations should continue its role and mandate and should work in a spirit of realism and efficiency whilst making allowances for recent developments. His delegation welcomed proposals for reform and rationalization which would lead to greater efficiency, but the most important consideration was that the will of the peoples concerned should be respected. The United Nations should monitor the impact of foreign economic and military interests on the Territories under consideration and should facilitate the political and institutional process under way in South Africa.

30. Mr. ZEINELDDIN (Islamic Republic of Iran) observed that the General Assembly had condemned the activities of foreign economic and other interests that had impeded implementation of the Declaration on decolonization and the elimination of colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in the Non-Self-Governing Territories It had also strongly condemned transnational

(Mr. Zeinelddin, Islamic Republic of Iran)

corporations and all States, particularly certain Western countries and Israel, that had continued to invest in South Africa or to supply it with arms, oil or nuclear technology. The dismantling and eradication of apartheid in South Africa was currently in sight, and there was now a growing hope for the formation of a new State based on the free will of the people, as propounded in the historic General Assembly Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa.

31. The limited but hopeful progress that had been accomplished in South Africa was now being threatened by a familiar kind of policymaking marked by short-sighted economic interests. Some argued that the presence of foreign economic enterprises in colonial Territories, and particularly in South Africa, was in the best interests of the indigenous populations, but that was not so. The proponents of that position also argued that the developments in South Africa made consideration of the issue of foreign economic and military activities in colonial Territories irrelevant. His delegation, however, like the overwhelming majority of the members of the Special Committee on decolonization, believed that the focus on those questions and on the issue of apartheid should be maintained.

32. Iran supported the draft resolutions and decisions put forward by the Special Committee in document A/46/23 (Part III), which condemned the policy of apartheid and foreign economic activities in Territories under colonial domination, as well as nuclear collaboration with South Africa by countries such as Israel, which only served to aggravate the threat to world peace. South Africa's nuclear and military strength and its collaboration with foreign countries were the major impediments to the complete elimination of apartheid.

33. Foreign economic and military activities of administering Powers in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific region raised similar questions. The small size of the Territories in those regions did not mean that the economic growth and initiative of their indigenous populations, however, could not be hindered. The establishment of military bases and nuclear dumps in those small Territories was in direct violation of the original mandates of the administering Powers, and threatened regional and international stability.

34. Mr. AL-ZAYANI (Bahrain) briefly reviewed United Nations resolutions which were intended to eradicate all forms of colonialism and foreign domination, including racism, racial discrimination and the exploitation of economic and human resources by foreign interests. It was to be hoped that the positive moves seen in South Africa in the current year would be followed by the complete elimination of racial discrimination and the restoration of political and constitutional rights to the Black majority in South Africa. Since economic activity was the mainstay of minority rule in South Africa, Bahrain had imposed a legal boycott on trade and dealings with that country. All economic or other activities which impeded implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) and which hampered efforts to destroy colonialism, racism and racial

(Mr. Al-Zayani, Bahrain)

discrimination constituted a violation of human rights and the principles of the United Nations Charter and resolutions, as the 1991 report of the Special Committee confirmed.

35. Mrs. SEMAMBO KALEMA (Uganda) said that the entry into the United Nations of the two new States of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, the forthcoming referendum on the future of Western Sahara and the achievement of independence by Namibia testified to forward movement in the decolonization process. The international community must not, however, relax its efforts to ensure that the remaining 18 small Territories achieved self-determination and independence. Indeed, there was now more need than ever to adhere to the principles of the United Nations Charter and to ensure the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization. The remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories were small and developing island countries with common problems of economic fragility and vulnerability to natural disasters, while their administering Powers had done little to find new strategies for their future economic development or to ease their heavy dependence.

36. The military bases which continued to exist in dependent or Non-Self-Governing Territories clearly constituted a major obstacle to the pursuit of self-determination and independence.

37. Although the report of the Special Committee noted that the contribution made by foreign investments had improved standards of living in those Territories, no mechanism had been put in place to allow the indigenous populations to continue their economic development after independence was gained. Thus, those Territories were threatened with the collapse of their economies in the event that foreign investors withdrew. Her delegation believed that such selfish interests, whether economic or other, constituted the main impediment to the granting of independence to colonial countries and people and that urgent measures must be taken by the international community to redress the situation.

38. Uganda attached special significance to the elimination of colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa, as their existence had been a continuous denial of the inalienable right of the people of that region to self-determination and independence and a destabilizing factor in the entire continent. The ending of East-West confrontation had not led to the eradication of apartheid. A great deal still remained to be done by the South African regime before that was achieved. Her delegation strongly supported the constitutional negotiations, which were clearly imperative for the creation of a free, non-racial and democratic South Africa, and considered that existing sanctions must be maintained by the international community until there was clear evidence of profound and irreversible change. Her delegation therefore called on those countries which had been collaborating with the South African regime in the military, nuclear or other fields to cease that practice.

39. Mr. AL-FARAH (Kuwait) said that States administering Non-Self-Governing Territories were directly responsible for taking administrative and legislative measures to protect such Territories from economic exploitation and foreign control. They should also endeavour to develop and diversify the economic resources of those Territories, where all activities should, in any event, be undertaken only in the interests of their peoples. Kuwait, particularly after its recent ordeal under occupation, highly valued the importance of asserting the right of peoples to self-determination and freedom, a right which applied irrespective of the size, geographical location and natural resources of any territory. On the issue of discrimination, his delegation believed that pressure on the South African Government should be maintained until fundamental changes were instituted guaranteeing rights to all citizens. It therefore supported the work of the Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records

FOURTH COMMITTEE
6th meeting
held on
Friday, 11 October 1991
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. FLEMMING (Saint Lucia)

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (A/C.4/46/8, A/C.4/46/3)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to communications containing requests for hearings relating to the question of Pitcairn (A/C.4/46/8) and Western Sahara (A/C.4/46/3). If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to grant those requests.

2. It was so decided.

3. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he had received two communications containing requests for hearings, one concerning the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies under agenda item 101 and one concerning Western Sahara under agenda item 19. He suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, the communications should be circulated as Committee documents for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

4. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 100: ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (continued) (A/46/23, part III; A/AC.109/1065, 1066, 1070, 1073, 1075-1078)

General debate (continued)

5. Mr. BELEYI (Togo) noted that, in the course of its work, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples had come to the conclusion, in the light of the enormous changes taking place in the world and the trends emerging in it, that it was necessary to give renewed emphasis to the inalienable right of dependent peoples and Territories to self-determination, independence and the exploitation of their resources in their own interests.

6. Although the question under consideration was not new, his delegation considered it appropriate to point out that, in connection with the Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, the international community should again remind the Governments concerned of their duty to put an end to apartheid through negotiations and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, to take the constitutional, administrative and other action relating to their nationals and companies whose activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories were contrary to the

(Mr. Beleyi, Togo)

interests of the inhabitants of those territories to put an end to those activities. The peoples of the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean, the Pacific and southern Africa, particularly South Africa, had the right to life in peace based on freedom, solidarity, security and the enjoyment of human rights.

7. Mr. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu) said that a broad international consensus now existed that colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination were unacceptable. What was less clear was how much still remained to be done to achieve the complete elimination of colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination by the end of the current decade and how what remained to be done should be done. Some pointed to the great progress already made in the decolonization process and suggested that little remained to be done. Others pointed to the rather unique circumstances of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and the difficulties the people of those Territories would face should the international community address the remaining decolonization items with reduced commitment. His delegation shared the latter view.

8. His country belonged to a region in which colonialism was still a major concern and therefore the agenda item under consideration remained of great importance to it. In dealing with it, an effort must be made to avoid offering outmoded solutions to current problems.

9. No one could deny that foreign and economic and other interests had been a pre-eminent factor in the development and maintenance of colonialism. At present foreign investment was important to developing countries, particularly newly independent developing countries. However, the terms and conditions of such investment and other economic relationships differed from those which had existed under colonialism. Without doubt there were still some foreign economic and other interests which did in fact impede the decolonization process and efforts to eliminate apartheid and other forms of racial discrimination. South Africa was an example of a colonial social system which had initially grown and prospered through the racial domination and economic exploitation of its people. Such an outmoded system limited and ultimately arrested economic growth, eventually resulting in stagnation and decline. Those who currently governed in South Africa now found themselves compelled to act in accordance with their long-term economic interests rather than their immediate social preferences.

10. He concluded by reiterating his delegation's desire to engage in open and candid dialogue, as well as careful and thoughtful analysis, on the subject.

11. Mrs. MULAMULA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that despite the positive atmosphere in the world, the international community was no closer to attaining the lofty goals of universal peace, stability and justice. On the other hand, it could not be denied that the improved international atmosphere, particularly the relaxation of tension between East and West, had contributed greatly to the advancement of the principles contained in the United Nations Charter.

(Mrs. Mulamula, United Republic of Tanzania)

12. At a time when the international community was in the final sprint of the race to eradicate totally colonialism, attempts were being made to retreat from the principles of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and delete the question of apartheid from the agenda of the Committee which was entrusted to promote the rights of peoples and countries under colonialism, foreign domination, racial discrimination and apartheid.

13. The Committee should not allow any disguised attempts to undermine the principles of the Declaration and detract from the rights of peoples to self-determination and independence. In that regard, the responsibilities of administering Powers as provided for in chapter XI of the United Nations Charter, particularly their obligation to promote to the utmost the well-being of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories, could not be overemphasized.

14. Over many years the Committee had condemned all foreign activities, economic, military or otherwise, in the colonial Territories that impeded the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination. The Committee had been criticized for allegedly indiscriminate condemnation of foreign investment in those colonial Territories. While it recognized the development aspect of those investments, it could not ignore the fact that for peoples under colonialism or any other form of domination, any development activity was incidental to the interests of the administering Power, which were still those of exploitation and domination.

15. It was no secret that the economic and military strength of the apartheid regime in South Africa had been sustained to a very great extent by the collaboration of Western and other States. The fact that the apartheid regime had been forced to compromise was a direct result of the relentless pressure exerted on the de Klerk Government through economic and other sanctions.

16. Her delegation reiterated its position, which was that the deletion of the South Africa issue from the agenda of the Special Committee on decolonization would be to ignore the colonial features of the situation in South Africa. Until the South African Government set in motion an irreversible process for dismantling apartheid and there was evidence of profound and irreversible change, the Fourth Committee and the Special Committee on decolonization would have to continue to exert all efforts to enable the South African people to exercise their right to self-determination.

17. Tanzania would continue to oppose any action that colonial Powers might take which ignored the legitimate aspirations of colonial peoples.

18. Mr. MANRIQUE (Venezuela) expressed his delegation's concern that the wording of proposals submitted for consideration by the Committee did not give a clear idea of the aims towards which Member States were working. In that connection, the texts of proposals should be formulated in such a way as to enable a consensus to be reached without adversely affecting questions of substance and the aims of the Committee, and his delegation wished to declare its willingness to assist the work of the Committee in every way possible.

19. Mr. AYEWAH (Nigeria) said that at a time when the majority of countries were moving towards freedom, self-determination and democracy, there was still one State in Africa which maintained colonialism and racial prejudice. That was South Africa. Although his delegation recognized that some efforts were being made to end that unique form of colonialism, it was obliged to decry the situation in South Africa because there was as yet no evidence that the South African regime would speedily negotiate the transition to a democratic, non-racial order. As long as apartheid remained in place, the Government that practised it should be condemned in all forums of the Organization, particularly in the Fourth Committee and the Special Committee against Apartheid.

20. The item under consideration was of immense interest to Nigeria, since it was a country which encouraged economic interaction among States as long as it was agreed to by both parties and was of mutual benefit. The administering Powers and colonial masters should promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples of the Territories and colonies and not see them as a reservoir of raw materials.

21. Nigeria was concerned by the use of Non-Self-Governing Territories as dumping grounds for consumer goods and dangerous and hazardous wastes. Many developing countries accepted such waste either out of ignorance of its harmful effects or for economic considerations. Nigeria denounced such activities and wished to state that if, as the administering Powers claimed, their activities were not harmful to the Territories, they should carry them out within their own national borders.

22. With regard to the concept of the new world order as it affected the Non-Self-Governing Territories and colonies, the international community should ensure that the new positive trends in international relations were reflected in issues of decolonization. A new world order should be based on a just and equitable distribution of wealth among nations. Anachronistic attitudes of domination and holding of other lands as possessions should be abandoned.

23. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded the general debate on agenda item 100, and proposed that the vote on the two draft resolutions before the Committee should be deferred to a later meeting.

24. It was so decided.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

25. The CHAIRMAN said that at its next meeting the Committee would continue consideration of the remaining items on its agenda and would hear petitioners whose request for a hearing had been approved.

26. He proposed that the decision taken at the second meeting, on 1 October, should be set aside, and that, since the Committee would not be meeting on Monday, the list of speakers for the general debate on the remaining agenda items should be closed on Friday, 18 October.

27. The proposal was adopted.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.